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Message Text

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AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 /073 R

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MARINE MAMMAL COMM:MR. TWISS(SUBS)
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---------- 027026
P 232125Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016370

CORRECTED COPY (PARA 2 LINE 2 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, EFIS, JA, UK

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC) MEETING OF
SELECTION COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 4-6, 1975, TOKYO

REFS: A. LONDON 510 AND B. STATE 280000 (BEING REPEATED)

1. PER REFTEL A, USG HAS BEEN INFORMED OF SUBJECT MEETING
WHICH WILL DECIDE ON RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW SECRETARY FOR
IWC FROM LIST OF SIX CANDIDATES. SUBJECT COMMITTEE MET IN
LONDON, NOVEMBER 1974. IN SUBSEQUENT MAIL BALLOTS, ALL SIX
MEMBER NATIONS ON SELECTION COMMITTEE (JAPAN, SO. AFRICA,
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USSR, USA, UK AND ARGENTINA) PLUS CHAIRMAN OF SCIENTICIC

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COMMITTEE (AUSTRALIA) AND CHAIRMAN OF IWC (NORWAY) VOTED FOR THEIR TWO TOP CHOICES OF CANDIDATES. SINCE RESULT NOT CONCLUSIVE, SUBJECT MEETING CALLED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBER NATIONS.

2. USG ASSUMES CONSENSUS LIKELY TO DEVELOP FOR CANDIDATE BURD FROM UK. SINCE, THEREFORE, MEETNG SHOULD BE BRIEF AND UNCOMPLICATED, WE WISH TO AVOID EXPENSE OF SENDING IWC EXPERT FROM WASHINGTON. SUBJECT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS KEY PART OF STRENGTHENING IWC, WHICH HAS BEEN STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY USG. AS EMBASSY AWARE, POLICY ON WHALES CAN BECOME HOT PUBLIC ISSUE IN US.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY DESIGNATE USG REP TO MEETING. IF POSSIBLE, HOPE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CALINGART CAN BE DESIGNATED, DUE TO IMPORTANCE OF MEETING AND COUNSELOR'S EXPERIENCE THIS AREA. EMBASSY SHOULD GIVE DEPT ASAP NAME OF OFFICER DESIGNATED, TO PERMIT DEPT TO NOTIFY IWC.

4. FOLLOWING CONSTITUTES INFORMATION WHICH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR SHOULD HAVE FOR BACKGROUND AT SUBJECT MEETING.

A. AT LONDON MEETING, USG AGREED THAT NO CANDIDATE WHO IS OBJECTED TO BY ANY NATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION. BOTH THE JAPANESE DELEGATES AND NORWEGIAN CHAIRMAN INDICATED INFORMAL OBJECTIONS TO S. HOLT AND US OBJECTED TO R. GAMBELL INFORMALLY. IN REFTEL B, USG OBJECTED TO ALL CANDIDATES EXCEPT S. HOLT AND A. BURD AND STATED THAT HOLT AND BURD WERE EQUALLY ACCEPTABLE.

B. BRIEF FINDINGS ON EACH OF SIX CANDIDATES AND TWO ON RESERVE LIST ARE AS FOLLOWS: FINDINGS ARE RESULTS OF EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH IWC SCIENTISTS AND MANY INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS FAO.

(1) DR. S.J. HOLT (U.K. CITIZEN WORKING FOR FAO). FIRST CHOICE OF USG BUT NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOJ AND GON BECAUSE OF HIS STRONG ATTACKS ON ADEQUACY OF WHALE MANAGEMENT BY IWC. HIS ABILITY AS AN ADMINISTRATOR AND WILLINGNESS TO CARRY CONFIDENTIAL

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OUT DIRECTIONS OF IWC IN DOUBT ALSO. HAS HAD LONG EXPERIENCE WITH IWC AND INTERNATIONAL OCEAN AFFAIRS.

(2) A.C. BURD (U.K. FISHERIES BIOLOGIST AT LABORATORY IN LOWESTOFT). HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY TOP INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES FIGURE AS FINE SCIENTIST AND ADMINISTRATOR. NO NEGATIVE REVIEWS IN U.S. CHECK. HAS HAD LONG EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISH-

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ERIES (ICNAF). NO EXPERIENCE WITH WHALES.

(3) D.E. GASKIN (CANADIAN MARINE MAMMAL SCIENTIST AT UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH). PUBLICATION RECORD AND LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FIELD OF WHALES AND OTHER MARINE MAMMALS IMPRESSIVE. SCIENTISTS ON IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND OTHERS WHO ARE PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED REGARD HIM AS ABRASIVE, VERY DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH AND SOME QUESTION HIS SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY. ONE MEMBER PROTECTION COMMUNITY REPORTED A SOURCE WHICH FELT HE IS BRILLIANT AND A TRUE FRIEND OF WHALES.

(4) DR. R. GAMBELL (U.K. WHALE SCIENTIST IN CHARGE OF UK WHALE RESEARCH). LONG EXPERIENCE IN SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE IWC, WELL-KNOWN AND ABLE SCIENTIST. REGARDED BY US CONSERVATION COMMUNITY AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF OLD GUARD OF WHALE EXPLOITERS IN IWC. DR. GAMBELL HAS TAKEN A DEFINITE POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO USG POSITIONS AND TO PROGRESSIVE STEPS OF IWC IN PUBLIC MEDIA.

(5) DR. F. NAGASAKI (JAPANESE FISHERIES SCIENTIST WITH JAPAN FISHERIES AGENCY). INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ICNAF AND AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (INPFC). REASONABLY CAPABLE AND SCIENTIFICALLY COMPETENT BUT NOT HIGHLY REGARDED. INTEREST IN POSITION QUESTIONABLE.

(6) A.J. HARRISON (AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES BIOLOGIST IN TASMANIA). NOT WELL KNOWN; SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITIES AVERAGE AND NO INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

RESERVE LIST
(7) PEDRO MERCADO SANCHEZ (MEXICAN FISHERIES BIOLOGIST). CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION, BUT COMPETENCE NOT HIGHLY REGARDED.

(8) DR. J.L. MUNRO (U.K. FISHERIES BIOLOGIST WITH U.K. MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT). SINCE DR. MUNRO DID NOT APPEAR A LIKELY CANDIDATE, NO EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO CHECK ON REFERENCES. HE HAS HAD EXPERIENCE INTERNATIONALLY IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FISHERIES MAINLY AND HAS SERVED IN WEST INDIES.

5. USG SUPPORTS A.C. BURD FOR POSITION AND IS RELATIVELY CONFIDENT THAT BURD'S CANDIDACY WILL IN FACT SUCCEED.

6. IN THE EVENT THE BURD CANDIDACY IS NOT SUCCESSFUL AND CONSEN US APPEARS TO BE BUILDING FOR CANDIDACY OF

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D.E. GASKIN, USG MAY CONCUR.

7. IN EVENT NEITHER OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IS SUCCESSFUL,
US REP SHOULD TAKE RESERVATION AND REFER BACK TO DEPT FOR
FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. INGERSOLL

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